



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: MARCH 24, 2021**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REGARDING ADVISORY TEAMS, COVID-19 IMPACTS, HISTORIC HOUSES, STAFFING, COLLECTIONS, PROGRAMS, AND VOLUNTEER AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

ISSUE:

Receive and file Director's Update regarding advisory teams, COVID-19 impacts, historic houses, staffing, collections, programs, and volunteer and support opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board receive and file Director's Update regarding advisory teams, COVID-19 impacts, historic houses, staffing, collections, programs, and volunteer and support opportunities.

DISCUSSION:

Advisory Teams

The following activity occurred in the staff-level advisory teams. These teams meet on varying schedules. The pandemic continues to affect the meeting schedules for some teams.

- Collections Committee – This committee has been active in processing accessions, deaccessions, and finalizing the new Education and Interpretation Policy, approved by the Museum of Riverside Board (Board) at its meeting on February 24, 2021.
- Harada House Project Team – The team's next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 2, 2021.
- Branding and Marketing Team – A sub-group of this team met on February 17, 2021, with the designer of the Museum's new brand, Hannah Jones. City Manager's office review and approval is required in advance of a presentation to the Board.
- Design Team – Activity suspended.
- Program Team – Activity suspended.

COVID-19 Impacts

Incremental re-openings of City sites are under way, and the Museum plans to reopen Heritage House on its normal schedule on September 10, 2021, assuming no new pandemic-related setbacks occur. Guidelines directing social distancing, face coverings, and sanitation protocols will remain in place for an unknown period after reopening.

Historic Houses

Issuance of the Requests for Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for Phase I of the Harada House rehabilitation and the Robinson House reconstruction continue to work through the proposal process. Staff developed virtual walk-throughs for both in lieu of in-person site walks.

Progress toward the \$6.5 million fundraising goal for Harada House slowed after the first of the year, but staff and the Harada House Foundation continue to make progress by speaking to potential donors and researching grantors. As of the date of this report, 13.96% of the goal is achieved. Board members are encouraged to like and share the Museum Facebook and Instagram posts as well as the Harada House Foundation's Instagram posts.

Staffing

Three interns from UCR are assisting with the inventory and digitization of Harada House Family archives and with education staff.

There will not be a staff profile at the March meeting. The series will return in April with a profile on Katie Grim, Collections Registrar.

Collections

Staff continue to make progress on multi-year efforts, including collection rehousing (Indigenous basketry), inventories (Harada House archives), object cataloging, and digitization of records. Potential deaccessions continue to be identified and researched.

Collection objects have recently been published in two books: 1) *Riverside Memories*, a joint publication of Pediment and the *Press Enterprise*, features close to a hundred of the Museum's historic photos (pre-1930) and 2) several of our Indigenous baskets are in a large new book, *California Indian Basketry*, by Wayne Thompson and Eugene Meieran.

Long-term loans on an annual renewal cycle have been reviewed and renewed and, in one case, objects returned and replaced with different examples. The Collections Committee also recently approved the loan of a basket to a major new exhibition at the Field Museum in Chicago. A publication may accompany that exhibition.

Exhibitions and Programs

Virtual programs in development include features on artist Miné Okubo, local geology, the entomology collection, the 2020 downtown mural phenomenon, and historic house virtual tours. Videos are in various stages of readiness and will release initially on the Museum's social media sites. Upon full approval of the new brand, the Museum will establish a new YouTube channel as well as uploading our videos to the City's YouTube channel.

The Museum participated in the virtual Dickens Festival in February and plans to do the same during the virtual Insect Fair in April (April 12-16, 2021).

Education staff are assembling new curriculum-based education kits on a range of topics, which will be available for use in classrooms and by homeschoolers.

The Museum received a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in support of the coordination of the first Harada exhibition that will be installed in the reconstructed Robinson House.

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

In alignment with reduced staffing levels, volunteer opportunities remain very limited and include garden work at Heritage House or assistance in collections storage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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